NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

WEEKLY STAFF NEWSLETTER
February 27, 1998

OLMSTED OPENS

A new special exhibit opens tomorrow in Hall E. **Viewing Olmsted: Photographs by Robert Burley, Lee Friedlander and Geoffrey James** was developed by the Canadian Centre for Architecture. We are augmenting the show with a small section on Olmsted's significance to Chicago that includes archival material from the Chicago Park District and Riverside Historical Commission. The exhibit runs through April 26.

WARNING:

Nasty Computer Virus Found in Education

Sue Stott reports that a very nasty computer virus (Form.A Boot Sector Virus) necessitated replacing her hard drive. Sue is particularly concerned about anyone who may have borrowed one of her disks or put their disk into her A drive. If problems are experienced, please call Computer Services.

GOVERNOR'S PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE FIELD: MONEY ANNOUNCED FOR MUSEUMS

On Sunday, February 15, Governor James Edgar held an unprecedented press conference in Stanley Field Hall to announce a special multi-million dollar Museum initiative in the State budget. The announcement, which came in advance of the Governor's February 18 budget address, described a line-item appropriation to support museums on public land for the purpose of supporting the institutions' educational mission for the benefit of Illinois children.

The Governor's initiative has two components. The first is a $5 million operations proposal for FY1999 to encourage creative education partnerships involving schools and museums. The second part, a five-year $50 million capital funding proposal, is designed to help Illinois museums create new exhibits and expand facilities. While all the details of the capital program have not yet been released, the Governor declared his intent to provide capital improvement funding to cultural, historical and scientific institutions on public lands, to create information technology partnerships and to make exhibits and resources available to students

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via the Internet. The Governor's vision includes future partnerships to involve students directly in museum programs or projects, to expand interactive programs between museums and classrooms, to encourage specialized training programs for teachers, and to fund student internships in museums or create new kinds of educational programs for students.

In his announcement, the Governor recognized that museums have a significant impact on local economies in addition to their education mission. The Governor cited the fact that more than 7.4 million people visited the nine Museums in the Park located in Chicago, of which 40% reside outside of Illinois. The Governor made reference to Illinois' $18 billion tourism industry and the contribution that the museums and other cultural institutions make to this industry. He noted that one in ten Illinois jobs depends on tourism.

John McCarter attended the Governor's budget address on February 18 in Springfield, accompanied by Douglas Donnenfeld, chairman of the Adler Board of Trustees; David Mosena, president of the Museum of Science and Industry; James Wood, president of the Art Institute; Carlos Tortellero, president of the Mexican Museum of Fine Arts; Jacqueline Atkins, executive director of Museums in the Park; and one of the two lobbyists for the Museums in the Park. The group met with all four legislative leaders (majority / minority leaders of both houses) in an effort to gain support for the Governor's museum initiative.

While the museums would have been delighted with more funding, the Governor's initiative represents a new opportunity for public museums and the Museums in the Park. It is expected that the capital funding component will be made available through a matching grant process that rewards those museums that have support of the local entities (such as the Museums in the Park through the Park District tax levy), as well as those who match public support with private fund-raising. A significant effort will have to be made throughout the spring session to ensure that the amount of the Governor's proposal is not reduced through the legislative process.

WAGNER ON THE ROAD

John Wagner, Department of Education has been on the road in '97. During the year, John presented over twenty programs as Charles R. Darwin. Several programs were given at The Field Museum, others sponsored by the Illinois Humanities Council were presented across the state. Darwin played well in Peoria, an encouraging sign for the health of evolution education in the heartland. IHC support will continue to aid Darwin on the road in 1998.

Christian Fellowship to meet Wednesday, March 4, 1998 in Lecture Hall II at 12 noon until 1:00 p.m. The inspirational message will be, "Are you assembled?" Questions? Call **Sandra Blake** (x648).

FROG STUDY LEADS TO M.S. FOR ZAINUDIN

Ramlah Zainudin, a graduate student in the Division of Amphibians and Reptiles, has successfully completed work on her Master of Science degree at University of Illinois (UIC) at Chicago. Ramlah analyzed mitochondrial DNA of three species of frogs from Sarawak and Sabah (Malaysian states in Borneo) in order to study genetic variation within species. Ramlah collected specimens and tissues in Sarawak and used these tissues and some collected by **Harold Voris** and **Bob Inger** in Sabah and Brunei. She found remarkable amounts of genetic variation -- almost the greatest genetic variation known within species of vertebrates -- and strong evidence for the influence of geologic history and the ecological characteristics of species on those patterns. Ramlah's thesis committee included Mary Ashley and Joel Brown of UIC and Harold and Bob. Ramlah could not have accomplished her work without the instruction of **Lee Weigt** of the Museum's biochemistry lab. Ramlah is now back in Sarawak busy with teaching vertebrate biology at the Universiti Malaysia Sarawak.

FIELD GOOD

Remember that the next **Fitness Class** will be held Tuesday, March 3, in Rice Hall at 5:15 p.m. until 6:15 pm. We have had between 10 and 18 people (both women and men!) at each class and have lots of fun. After this class, we will evaluate the program and develop a plan for the future which may include changing the day of the week or adding an additional class each week.

If you haven't attended a class yet, plan to come Tuesday. We begin with low-impact aerobics and then do stretching exercises. You'll feel great! Remember to dress comfortably and to bring a towel and water. Any questions, please call **Carole Kasarda**, (x529).

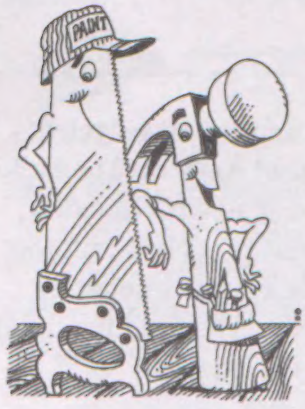
The *Natural News* is printed on recycled paper, and can be recycled again. We are in the process of putting the *Natural News* on The Field Museum intranet, and when that is finalized, you may wish to reduce the number of paper copies your department receives. (The Mailroom is in charge of distribution of the *Natural News.)* This newsletter is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions (in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmnh.org) is Tuesday at noon.

PAPER RECYCLING

A list to keep and post...

Papers that are acceptable and not acceptable for recycling at the Museum are:

YES	NO!!!
white and colored bond paper/copy paper	tissue paper, paper towels, napkins
letterheads	food contaminated paper
computer paper	plastic
NCR forms	cardboard (to be recycled separately)
stationery, tablet sheets	hanging file folders
data tab cards	plastic overheads
file folders	photographs
catalogs	carbon paper
envelopes (plastic windows OK)	plates, cups
magazines	brown bags
newspaper	
fax paper	
phone books	
ream wrappers	
books	
staples, paper clips, rubber bands are OK	



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Beginning in mid-March, a section of the east-west corridor on the ground floor to the south of McDonald's will be renovated to improve the ceiling and lighting. The cases housing Egyptian textiles will be removed and the butterfly cases will be temporarily moved. The work is expected to be finished by May 22. Questions? Call **John Mazza** (x380)